

THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE (VT)
25 February 1983

Intelligence Agencies Protested

By Ilene Lovesky

Alleged connections between the College and national intelligence agencies have become the topic of much discussion on campus, as a result of two recent incidents involving the presence of the agencies at Middlebury.

In the first incident, a representative of the National Security Agency (N.S.A.) came to Middlebury several weeks ago to hold an informational meeting in Voter Hall to inform Russian majors of the job possibilities in federal intelligence programs, and of a new program which would recruit sophomores and juniors into the agency while they were still in college. The N.S.A. had made no arrangements with Career Counseling and Placement (CC & P) prior to scheduling the meeting in Voter.

The second incident occurred on Feb. 18, when a newly formed Committee Concerned About Intelligence Recruiting staged a demonstration outside CC & P to protest "the continuing, unquestioned and ambiguous relationship between this College and the C.I.A."

Seniors Grier Taylor-Weeks and Steve Wishengrad, representing the newly-formed committee, brought the issue of Middlebury's relationship with intelligence agencies to the Feb. 17 Community Council meeting. Opinions among the members of Community Council varied, and the committee tabled further discussion of the issue to its Feb. 24 meeting, when members of the committee could present specific proposals to be voted on.

The N.S.A. informational session was the idea of Cindy Young, a 1981 Middlebury graduate. Young had met Thomas Beyer, associate professor of Russian, at a conference and asked him if she could send a representative of the agency to speak to Russian majors about possible job opportunities in the N.S.A.

The peaceful protest, accompanied by the strains of Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'," was at-

tended by approximately 20 students and five faculty members. The demonstrators also said the College's relationship with intelligence agencies could affect the future of Middlebury's schools abroad.

The issue of the College's schools abroad was also brought up at the Community Council meeting the day before the protest. Jane Miller, assistant professor of Russian, said it would be "the kiss of death to our programs" for Middlebury to have any connection with the C.I.A.

Taylor-Weeks began the meeting by stating, "The C.I.A. compromises the integrity of the College." He then asked the committee to develop some policy regarding Middlebury's association with the C.I.A. and other intelligence agencies.

David Rosenberg, associate professor of political science, agreed, saying, "I think it is inhibiting to the academic freedom here. There is a possible conflict of interest between those who want the jobs and those who are afraid of the C.I.A. I know this is true because some students have told me they are afraid of their classmates, should they be an agent of the C.I.A."

Another issue discussed at the Community Council meeting was the recruitment of faculty as "spotters," or contacts, for the C.I.A. Rosenberg said, "The C.I.A. has a regular policy of recruiting faculty. I have had an offer from them within the past two months to be a spotter." Steven Rockefeller, dean of the College, said, "It is a College policy that faculty are not allowed to use their posi-

CONTINUED

tion to do surveillance of students or classified research." They told us about their bad points. I found them to be very honest about what they expected of you," he said.

Michael Heineken, assistant professor of physical education, said he felt intelligence agencies should be able to recruit on campus. "I think the best thing that could happen in the C.I.A. would be to have Middlebury graduates in there to upgrade we should not allow the C.I.A.

Kitty Calavita, assistant professor of sociology-anthropology, said she agreed with Taylor-Weeks that the agencies should not be allowed on campus. She said, "As a moral statement, we should not allow the C.I.A.

"The C.I.A. has consistently misrepresented themselves in regard to students and their activities."

the agency instead of recruiting lesser quality students," he said, adding, "You're making a big mistake by trying to keep them off campuses."

Senior Ted Truscott, chairman of Student Forum, agreed with Heineken. He said, "I do not think we should underestimate the intelligence of Middlebury students making their own choices."

Taylor-Weeks said, "The C.I.A. has consistently misrepresented themselves in regard to students and their activities." He also said he believes intelligence agencies curtail academic freedom and should not be allowed on campus. Truscott, who applied to the N.S.A. for a job, and was rejected, disagreed. "I am not sure they (NSA) misrepresent themselves.

up, we're making a symbolic moral statement saying we do not approve of that (their covert activities)."

Truscott commented, "Whether you want to allow them access or not, some students will want to talk to them." Stephen Johansson, director of Career Counseling and Placement, added, "If we do not allow them up here, they could camp out at the Middlebury Inn for two weeks, and we would not have any control over them whatsoever. Up here, it could be organized and supervised."

Rockefeller ended the meeting's discussion, stating, "The problem does infringe on the campus in many ways. Right now we're just trying to figure out what information, if any, should be given to the C.I.A."